Abrasion Rubbed-away or scraped off the surface covering the body (e.g., of

skin or mucous membrane).

Accident Unplanned, and sometimes injurious or damaging, event that

interrupts the normal progress of an activity and is invariably preceded by an unsafe act or unsafe condition, or some

combination thereof.

Acid Chemical compound that dissociates hydrogen ions when

dissolved in water. The resulting acid solutions taste sour, turn

litmus paper or solution red, and neutralize bases.

Acute Severe, often dangerous exposure in which relatively rapid

changes are occurring. An acute exposure normally runs a

comparatively short course.

Action Level Term used by OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational

Safety and Health to express the level of toxicant that requires medical surveillance, usually one-half the permissible exposure

level.

Administrative

Controls

Methods of controlling employee exposures by job rotation, work

assignment, or time periods away from the hazard.

Air Monitoring Sampling for and measuring of pollutants in the atmosphere.

Air-Purifying

Respirator

Respirator that uses filters or sorbents to remove harmful

substances from the air

Air-Supplied

Respirator

Respirator that provides a supply of breathable air from a clean

source outside the contaminated work area.

American National Standards Institute

(ANSI)

Voluntary membership organization that develops national consensus standards for a large number of devices and

procedures.

Asbestosis Chronic lung disease with signs and symptoms resulting from

permanent changes in the lung tissue due to inhalation of fine

airborne fibers of asbestos.

Atom Smallest particle of an element. As a chemical unit, it remains

unchanged during any chemical reaction, yet may undergo nuclear

changes to other atoms, as in atomic fission.

Base A compound that reacts with an acid to form a salt. It is another

term for alkali. It turns litmus paper blue.

Audible Range Frequency range over which normal ears hear: approximately 20

hertz (Hz) through 20,000 Hz.

Bioassay Measurement of the activity of a drug from its effects on living

organisms.

Bloodborne Pathogen Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and

cause disease in humans. These include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Boiling Point Temperature at which a liquid starts to boil; that is, when the vapor

pressure of the liquid is equal to the atmospheric pressure exerted

on the liquid.

Breathing Zone

Sample

Air sample collected in the breathing zone of the workers to assess

their exposure to airborne contaminants.

Candle Unit of luminous intensity. Candlepower is a measure of intensity

of a source of light compared with a standard candle.

Carcinogen Any substance that, under certain quantified exposures, produces

cancer in animals or humans.

Carpal Tunnel

Syndrome

Common affliction caused by compression of the median nerve in

the carpal tunnel. Often associated with tingling, pain, or

numbness in the thumb and first three fingers; may be job-related.

CAS Number Used to identify a particular chemical by the Chemical Abstract

Service (CAS), a service of the American Chemical Society, which indexes and compiles abstracts of worldwide chemical literature

called Chemical Abstracts.

Ceiling Limit (C) Airborne concentration of a toxic substance in the work

environment, which should never be exceeded.

Celsius Temperature scale in which 100° is the boiling point and 0° is the

freezing point of water.

CFR (Code of Federal

Regulations)

Includes the rules that are promulgated under U.S. law, published

in the Federal Register, and actually in force at the end of a

calendar year.

Chronic Persistent, prolonged, repeated.

Confined Space Enclosed space with limited or restricted means of entry or exit,

which is not meant for continuous occupancy. These may include underground vaults, tanks, storage bins, pits and diked areas,

vessels, and silos.

Controls In general, measures including devices to regulate a machine,

apparatus, system, or action within prescribed limits or standards

of safety and operational effectiveness.

Danger Generally, the liability or potential for producing harm.

Decibel (dB) Logarithmic unit used to express sound power level. Sound power

is the total acoustic output of a sound source in watts.

Deflagration Exothermic (heat, burning) reaction that expands rapidly from the

burning gases to the unreacted material by conduction, convection,

and radiation.

Density Ratio of the mass to volume.

Detonation A violent chemical reaction within a chemical compound or

mechanical mixture evolving heat and pressure. A detonation is a reaction that proceeds through the reacted material toward the

unreacted material at a supersonic velocity.

Diffusion Rate Tendency of one gas or vapor to disperse into or mix with another

gas or vapor. This rate depends on the density of the vapor or gas

as compared with that of air, which is given a value of 1.

Disease Any deviation of the body from its normal or healthy state, or a

particular disorder with one or more specific causes and

characteristic symptoms.

Dust Suspended particles of solid matter in such a fine state of division

that they may be inhaled, ingested, or absorbed. Dust is a

descriptive term for airborne solid particles that range in size from

0.1 to 25 microns.

Element Solid, liquid, or gaseous matter that cannot be further decomposed

into simpler substances by chemical means.

Endothermic Characterized by or formed with absorption of heat.

Energy Capacity for doing work. Various forms of energy include

chemical, electrical, geothermal, kinetic, nuclear, potential, solar,

wind, and others.

Epidemiology Study of disease as it spreads and involves large groups of people.

Ergonomics Multidisciplinary activity dealing with the interactions between man

and his total working environment plus stresses related to such environmental elements as atmosphere, heat, light, and sound, as

well as all tools and equipment in the workplace.

Exhaust Ventilation Removal of air, usually by mechanical means, from any space. The

flow of air between two points is due to the occurrence of a pressure difference between two points, causing the air to flow

from the high-pressure to the low-pressure zone.

Explosion Rapid increase of pressure in a confined space followed by its

sudden release due to rupture of the container. The increase in pressure is generally caused by an exothermic chemical reaction of

an overpressurization of a system.

Exposure Contact with a chemical, biological, or physical hazard.

Eye Protection Device that safeguards the eye in an eye-hazard environment.

See Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face

Protection-ANSI Z87.1.

Face Velocity Average air velocity into the exhaust system measured at the

opening into the hood or booth.

Fire Rapid oxidation of material or substance with the evolution of heat

and light.

Fire Extinguisher Device having characteristics essential for extinguishing flame;

may contain liquid, dry chemicals, or gases. They are tested and rated to indicate their ability to handle specific classes and sizes of

fires, as follows:

Class A: For ordinary combustibles, such as wood, paper, and

textiles

 Class B: For flammable liquid and gas fires, such as oil, gasoline, paint, and grease, where oxygen exclusion or flame

interruption is essential

Fire Extinguisher (continued)

- Class C: For fires involving energized electrical wiring and equipment, where the nonconductivity of the extinguishing agent is important
- Class D: For fires in combustible metals such as magnesium, potassium, powdered aluminum, zinc, sodium, and lithium

Flammable Range

Difference between the lower and upper flammable limits, expressed in terms of percentage of vapor or gas in air by volume.

Frequency

For electrical machinery or electronics: Cycles per second or hertz relating to alternating current. For noise: The number of vibrations per unit of time, usually expressed in cycles per second or hertz.

Fume

Airborne particulate formed by the emission of solid materials, e.g., metal fume emitted during welding.

Gas

State of matter in which the material has a low density and viscosity; can expand and control in response to changes in temperature and pressure.

Gas Mask

Face covering connected to its own purifying device, which filters harmful gases from the air so that uncontaminated air may be breathed. Refer to Practice for Respiratory Protection-ANSI Z88.2.

General Ventilation

System of ventilation consisting of either natural or mechanically induced fresh air movements to mix with and dilute contaminants in the workroom air. This is not the recommended type of ventilation to control toxic contaminants.

Glove Box

Sealed enclosure in which all handling of items inside the box is carried out through long impervious gloves sealed to ports in the walls of the enclosure.

Grab Sample

Sample that is taken in a very short time period to determine the constituents at a specific time.

Gram

Metric unit of mass (453.6 grams equal 1 pound).

Ground

Conductor that provides an electrical path for the flow of current into the earth.

Half-Life

In radioactive terms, the time required for a radioactive substance to lose one-half of its activity (strength or intensity) by decay.

Hazard Condition or changing set of circumstances that presents a

potential for injury, illness, or property damage.

Hearing Conservation Prevention or minimization of noise-induced deafness through the

use of hearing protection devices, the control of noise through engineering methods, annual audiometric tests, and employee

training.

Heat Cramps Painful muscle spasms as a result of exposure to excess heat.

Heat Exhaustion Condition usually caused by loss of body water due to exposure to

excess heat. Symptoms include headaches, tiredness, nausea,

and sometimes fainting.

Heat Stroke Condition resulting from excessive exposure to intense heat,

characterized by high fever, collapse, and sometimes convulsions

or coma.

HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate

Air) Filter

An extended medium, dry-type filter with a particle removal efficiency of no less than 99.97 percent of 0.3 micron particles.

Hepatitis Inflammation of the liver resulting from a virus or toxic origin.

Hood (1) Enclosure, part of a local exhaust ventilation system; (2) a

device that completely covers the head, neck, and portions of the

shoulders.

IDLH Immediately dangerous to life or health.

Illumination Amount of light flux a surface receives per unit area. May be

expressed in lumens per square foot or in footcandles.

Immune Resistant to disease.

Inches of MercuryUnit used in measuring pressure that is equal to the pressure

exerted by a column of mercury 1 inch high at a standard

temperature.

Incidence Rate Injury/illness rate based upon 200,000 employee-hours, used by

the Bureau of Labor Statistics in reporting occupational injury and illness statistics developed from OSHA-required record keeping, and by industries and organizations following this system. Also

known as "safety ratio."

Incombustible Substance than cannot be burned; noncombustible.

Inert Gas Gas that does not normally combine chemically with the base metal

or filler metal.

Infection State or condition in which the body or a part of it is invaded by a

pathogenic agent that, under favorable conditions, multiplies and

produces injurious effects.

Injury Physical harm or damage to the body, as a result of violence,

infection, or any other traumatic contact between the body and an

outside agency or from exposure to environmental factors.

Inorganic Term used to designate compounds derived from other than

vegetable or animal matter; generally do not contain carbon.

Ion Electrically charged atom.

Irritant External substance that produces an active response in a living

organism.

Jigs and Fixtures Often used interchangeably: a jig holds work in position and guides

the tools acting on the work; a fixture holds but does not guide.

Joule Unit of energy used in describing a single pulsed output of a laser.

It is equal to 1 watt/second or 0.239 calories.

Kelvin Scale Fundamental temperature scale, in which the temperature measure

is based on the average kinetic energy per molecule of perfect gas.

The zero of the Kelvin scale is -273.18° Celsius.

Kinetic Energy Energy possessed by a moving body, equal to one-half its mass

multiplied by the square of its velocity.

Laminar Air Flow Streamlined air flow in which the entire body of air within a

designated space moves with approximate uniform velocity in one

direction along parallel flow lines.

Laser Acronym for "light amplification by stimulated emission of

radiation." Light from a laser beam travels in only one direction

and is all the same wavelength, so it reinforces itself.

Latent Period Time that elapses between exposure and the first signs of damage.

LC₅₀ Lethal concentration that will kill 50 percent of the test animals

within a specified time.

LD₅₀ Dose required to produce death in 50 percent of the exposed

species within a specified time.

Lead Poisoning Lead compounds can produce poisoning when they are ingested or

inhaled. Inorganic lead compounds cause symptoms of lead colic and lead anemia. Organic lead compounds can attack the nervous

system.

Lethal Capable of causing death.

Liquid State of matter in which the substance is a formless fluid that flows

in accord with the laws of gravity.

Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV)

Ventilation system that captures and removes the contaminants at the point where they are being produced, before they escape into

the workroom air.

Loudness Intensive attribute of an auditory sensation, in terms of which

sound may be ordered on a scale extending from soft to loud. Depends primarily on the sound pressure, but also on the

frequency and wave form of the stimulus.

Lower Explosive Limit (LEL)

Lower limit of flammability of a gas or vapor at ordinary ambient temperatures, expressed in percentage of a gas or vapor. This limit is assumed constant for temperatures up to 120° C. Above

this, it should be decreased by a factor of 0.7, because explosion

ability increases with higher temperatures.

Lumen Flux on 1 square foot of a sphere, 1 foot in radius, with a light

source of one candle at the center that radiates uniformly in all

directions.

Maintenance Activities intended to ensure that facilities and equipment should

be in good operating condition.

Makeup Air Clean, tempered outdoor air supplied to a work space to replace

air removed by exhaust ventilation or some industrial process.

Management
Oversight and Risk
Tree (MORT)

System safety concept calling for the application of analytic procedures to all phases of a safety program; its basic tool is the MORT chart, a "tree" identifying significant elements of a safety

program.

Manometer Instrument for measuring pressure of gases or vapors by changing

the level of a fluid in a tube. It consists essentially of a U-tube partially filled with a liquid and constructed so that the amount of displacement of the liquid indicates the pressure being exerted on

the instrument.

Mass Quantity of matter. The units of measure are the gram and the

pound.

Maximum Use Concentration (MUC)

Product of the protection factor of the respiratory protection

equipment and the permissible exposure limit (PEL).

Mist Combination of two or more substances that may be separated by

mechanical means. The components may not be uniformly

dispersed.

Melting Point Temperature at which a specified solid begins to liquify.

Metabolism Flow of energy and the chemical and physical changes that are

taking place in any living organism.

Mutagen Any substance that causes changes in the genetic structure in a

living cell and can be passed on to subsequent generations of the

animal or human.

Necrosis Destruction of body tissue.

NFPA (National Fire Protection

Association)

A voluntary membership organization whose aim is to promote and

improve fire protection and prevention.

NIOSH (National

Institute for

Occupational Safety and Health)

A Federal agency that conducts research on health and safety concerns, tests and certifies respirators, and trains occupational

health and safety professionals.

Noise Level Weighted sound pressure level (sound level), with the weighting

network (e.g., A or C) indicated. Noise level is quantified by the logarithm of the ratio of the measured sound pressure level to a

reference level.

Octave Band Arbitrary spread of frequencies. The top frequency is always twice

the number of the bottom one. The octave ban may be referred to

by a center frequency.

Oxygen Deficiency Atmosphere having less than approximately 21 percent oxygen,

normal air at sea level. More precisely, the deficiency occurs when

the partial pressure of oxygen falls below 120 mm Hg.

Pathogen Capable of producing disease.

Permissible Exposure

Limit (PEL)

Exposure limit that is published and enforced by OSHA as a legal

standard.

Personal Protective

Equipment (PPE)

Devices worn by the worker to protect him or her against hazards

in the environment.

Pitot Tube Tube with a short right, angled bend, used with a manometer for

measuring the velocity of fluids (liquid or gas) by means of

pressure difference.

Pneumoconiosis Disease of the lungs resulting from the inhalation of various kinds

of dusts and other particles, e.g., asbestosis, siderosis, silicosis.

Pollution Contamination of the environment with quantities of harmful

substances or energies as to make air, water, and/or land unfit or

less desirable.

Power Time rate at which work is done; units are the watt (1 joule per

second) and the horsepower (33,000 foot-pounds per minute).

ppm Parts per million (as in parts of vapor or gas per million parts of air,

by volume).

Protection Factor

(PF)

With respiratory protection equipment: the ratio of the ambient

airborne concentration of the contaminant to the concentration

inside the facepiece.

Pyrometer Instrument for measuring high temperature. For example, an

optical pyrometer measures temperature by matching the light from

heated materials with a standard source.

Radiant Temperature Temperature resulting from the body is absorption of radiant

energy.

Radiation Emission and propagation of energy and/or particles in the form of

waves through space or through a material medium.

Radioactivity Disintegration of the nucleus of an atom.

Raynaud's Syndrome Abnormal constriction of the blood vessels of the fingers on

exposure to cold temperature.

Regulator Mechanism for controlling or governing the movement of

machinery, or the flow of liquids, gases, electricity, steam, etc.

Relative HumidityRatio of the quantity of water vapor present in air to the quantity

that would saturate it at any specific temperature.

Risk Measure of both the probability and the consequence of all

hazards of an activity or condition.

Risk Assessment Amount or degree of potential danger perceived by a given

individual when determining a course of action to accomplish a

specified task.

Respirator Protective device to protect the wearer from inhaling contaminated

air.

Route of Entry Path by which chemicals can enter the body.

Safety General term denoting an acceptable level of risk of, relative

freedom from, and low probability of harm.

Safety Factor Ratio, allowed for in design, between the ultimate breaking

strength of a material, structure, or equipment and the actual

working stress or safe permissible load placed on it during ordinary

use. See "incident rate."

Sample Subgroup of the population of cases or subjects under study,

selected according to some rule or plan.

Sensitizer Chemical that, after extended or repeated exposure, produces in

some individuals an allergic type of skin or respiratory irritation.

Silicosis Chronic lung disease, due to the inhalation of silica dust.

Short-Term **ExposureLevel** (STEL)

Exposure limit recommended by the American Congress of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. Maximum concentration to which workers can be exposed for a short period of time (15 minutes) for only 4 times throughout the day, with at least 1 hour

between exposures.

Smoke Air suspension of particles less than 0.1 micron in size, resulting

from the incomplete combustion of carbonaceous materials.

Sound Oscillation in pressure, stress, particle displacement, particle

> velocity, etc., which is propagated in an elastic material, in a medium with internal forces or the superposition of such

propagated oscillations.

Sound Level Weighted sound pressure level, obtained by the use of metering

characteristics and the weighting A, B, or C specified in ANSI S1.4.

Sound Level Meter Instrument for use in measuring sound pressure levels in decibels

referenced to 0.0002 microbars.

Stress Physical, chemical, or emotional factors that cause bodily or mental

tension and may be a factor in disease or fatigue.

Substitution In relation to toxic or hazardous materials, the replacement of such

materials (or the equipment or processes used with them) by ones

that are less harmful.

System Safety Approach to accident prevention that involves the detection of

deficiencies in system components which have an accident

potential.

Temperature, **Dry Bulb**

Temperature of a gas or mixture of gases indicated by an accurate

thermometer after correction for radiation.

Temperature,

Thermodynamic wet-bulb temperature is the temperature at which liquid or solid water, by evaporating into air, can bring the air to Wet Bulb

saturation at the same temperature and pressure.

Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS)

Hearing loss suffered as a result of exposure to noise, all or part of which is recovered during an arbitrary period of time after one is removed from the noise source.

Threshold Limit Value (TLV)

Time-weighted average concentration under which most people can work consistently for eight hours a day, day after day, with no harmful effect. Published annually by the American Congress of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

Time-Weighted Average (TWA)

Refers to concentrations of airborne toxic materials that have been weighted for a certain time duration, usually eight hours.

ToxicityRelative property of a chemical agent that refers to a harmful effect on some biological mechanism and the condition under which this

effect occurs.

Trauma Injury, wound, or shock brought about by an outside force.

Ultraviolet Those wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum that are

shorter than those of visible light and longer than Xrays.

Universal Precautions Approach to infection control in which all human blood and certain

body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV,

hepatitis, and other bloodborne infections.

Upper Explosive Limit (UEL) Maximum proportion of vapor or gas in air above which

propagation of flame does not occur.

Vapor The gaseous form of a substance that is normally in the solid or

liquid state (at room temperature and pressure).

Vapor Density Weight of a vapor per unit volume at any given temperature and

pressure.

Vapor Pressure Force exerted at any given temperature by a vapor, either by itself

or in a mixture of gases; measured at the surface of an evaporating

liquid.

Ventilation One of the principal methods to control health hazards; may be

defined as "causing fresh air to circulate to replace foul air

simultaneously removed."

Vibration Oscillation motion about an equilibrium position produced by a

disturbing force.

Watt (w) Unit of power, equal to 1 joule per second.

Wavelength Distance in the line of advance of a wave from any point to a like

point on the next wave; usually measured in angstroms, microns,

micrometers, or nanometers.

Work Environment Physical location, equipment, material processed or used, and the

kinds of operations performed in the course of an employee's work,

on or off the employer's premises.

Work Stress Biomechanically, any external force acting on the body during the

performance of a task.